

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 and 16-22 are pending with claims 13-15 cancelled and claims 16-22 added.

Election/Restriction

Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 13-15.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-11 have been amended to replace "characterized in that" with --wherein--. These changes have been made to conform the claim terminology to standard United States patent practice.

Applicants acknowledge that the terms "O-plate" and "A-plate" are defined in the specification at page 1, line 33 – page 2, line 6. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims should not be unduly limited by inferring subject matter into the claims from the specification.

Furthermore, Applicants acknowledge the Examiners indication that claims 1-12 are allowed. In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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